WE CLAIM:

1    1.       A method of dynamically generating a presentation sequence from a plurality of authored

2    presentation documents comprising the steps of:

3            receiving the plurality of authored presentation documents from a plurality of data

4    sources;

5            applying the plurality of authored presentation documents to a set of presentation rules;

6    and

7            generating the presentation sequence in response to the applying step.


2.       The method of claim 1 wherein the applying step comprises the steps of:

testing for satisfied rule conditions; and

applying the plurality of authored presentation documents to a set of presentation rules in

response to the satisfied rule conditions.


3.       The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of receiving user input and wherein the

2    generating step comprises the step of generating the presentation sequence in response to the

3    received user input.


1    4.       The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of modifying the set of presentation

2    rules in response to the received user input.

1    5.    The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of sensing an external event and

2    wherein the generating step comprises the step of generating the presentation sequence in

3    response to the sensed external event.


1    6.    The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of modifying the set of presentation

2    rules in response to the sensed external event.


1    7.    The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of modifying the set of presentation

2    rules in response to the received presentation documents.


8.    The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

      receiving meta data from the plurality of data sources; and

      modifying the set of presentation rules in response to the received meta data.


9.    The method of claim 1 wherein the authored presentation documents are authored

2    presentation sequences and the generated presentation sequence is a composite presentation

3    sequence.


1    10.    A method for programmatic generation of continuous multimedia presentations by a

2    station capable of receiving at least one presentation and a plurality of sensed events, the method

3    comprising the steps of:

4       maintaining a library of rules;

5       receiving at least one presentation;

6       selecting at least one event to be sensed;

7       receiving the at least one event;

8       testing each rule in the library for each received event; and

9       optionally applying each rule to the at least one presentation for each received event in

10      response to the testing step to modify the at least one presentation or to generate a new

11      presentation.


11.     A method for dynamically composing a presentation from a plurality of multimedia

2       components comprising the steps of:

3       selecting one or more of the multimedia components to be identified as an initial portion of

4       the presentation;

5       programmatically selecting one or more other multimedia components to be identified as a

6       subsequent portion of the presentation;

7       disposing the subsequent portion with or following the initial portion; and

8       synchronizing the selected components to form the presentation.


1    12.     The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of presenting the presentation.


1    13.     The method of claim 11 wherein the multimedia components are continuous media

2     components.

1     14.    The method of claim 13 wherein the multimedia components are audio or video

2     components.

1     15.    The method of claim 11 wherein the multimedia components are non-continuous media

2     components.

16.    The method of claim 15 wherein the multimedia components are text or image

components.

17.    The method of claim 11 wherein the programmatically selecting step is responsive to input

parameters, a past presentation history or a current state.

18.    The method of claim 17 wherein the programmatically selecting step is responsive to line

2     content or meta-data.

1     19.    A program storage device, readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of

2     instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for dynamically generating a

3     presentation sequence according to the method steps of claims 1-18.

1      20.      A programmatic presentation generator into which presentation documents are received,

2      comprising:

3          a rule base;

4          a program state; and

5          a computation engine;

6          wherein the engine receives rule data from the rule base and state data from the program

7      state and generates a presentation sequence responsive to the presentation documents, the rule

8      data and state data.

     21.      A set top box for receiving channels and sending presentation sequences to a digital

television, comprising the programmatic presentation generator of claim 20.

     22.      A television set for receiving channels and generating presentation sequences, comprising

the programmatic presentation generator of claim 20.